Downsizing of Indian Army

2051. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to downsize the Indian Army;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether there is a resentment on the issue within the forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) There is no plan to downsize the army. The strength of the army is dictated by security environment and threat perceptions. Force re-structuring or right-sizing within the authorized strength of the Army is a continuous and dynamic process to remain ready and relevant in context of emerging challenges, technologies and the environment. There is no resentment within the Army on this issue.

IGMDP of DRDO

2052. SHRI S.K. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) on how many projects of the Integrated Missile Guided System, the Defence Research and Development Organisation is working at present, item and year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that Indian Army has reservations to use these indigenous missiles; and

(c) if not, when these indigenous missiles will be delivered to Indian Army for use?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) At present only one project *i.e.* NAG, third Generation Anti Tank Missile is under development as part of Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme. The probable date of completion is December 2008. User Trials of NAG third generation anti-tank missile is scheduled during 2nd half of 2008.

Defence services no longer a preferred career option

2053. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foundation of Organizational Research in a survey among the 4,600 graduates and post-graduates has reportedly found that the defence services were no longer a preferred career option;

(b) whether at present there is a reported shortage of 11,200 officers in Indian Army, 1,565 officers in Indian Air Force and 1,461 officers in Indian Navy;

(c) whether Indian Military Academy has only 86 to be honed into officers as against normal training of 250 gentlemen cadets; and

(d) if so, what remedial steps Defence Ministry has so far taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Presently there is a shortage of 11,153, 1,403 and 1,368 officers in Army, Navy and Air Force respectively. However, no survey has been conducted by the Government of India.